

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended, claim 3 has been canceled and claims 6-12 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-2 and 4-12 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-2 have been rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,791,907 to Ramshaw et al. (“Ramshaw”), and claims 3-5 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Ramshaw in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,370,355 to Ceretta et al.

Claim 1 recites an interactive template which includes, *inter alia*, “an animated demonstration of the surgical technique” and “a video recording demonstrating performance of the surgical technique on a patient,” and “wherein the interactive template is stored on a storage medium accessed and operated locally by the user at a work station and further includes a link which opens a channel to a communication network to access a website of a company providing the interactive template.”

The Examiner correlates the claimed animated demonstration with the “perform surgery” option disclosed in Ramshaw and the claimed video demonstration with the “observe surgery” option in Ramshaw. This is an inaccurate interpretation of Ramshaw.

The “perform surgery” option in Ramshaw is described in column 11, line 11 through column 13, line 13, and column 14, line 6 through column 24, line 23. Selection of the “perform surgery” option in Ramshaw does not initiate an animated demonstration of the surgical procedure, as claimed in the present application. Rather, the user is required to input information or perform an action after each incremental segment of the program. For example, the user is required to answer questions regarding the procedure or select or identify an appropriate instrument to be used in a respective stage of the procedure. As such, Ramshaw’s “perform surgery” option is akin to a quiz or test of the user’s knowledge of the procedure, which is significantly different than a demonstration of the procedure as recited in claim 1.

Moreover, the images shown in connection with Ramshaw's "perform surgery" option do not appear to be an animated demonstration. For example, the images presented in Figs. 7B, 7C and 8B are referenced in Ramshaw's discussion of the "perform surgery" device and appear to be video segments or photographs of an actual surgical procedure, similarly to the video image shown in Fig. 5B in connection with Ramshaw's discussion of the "observe surgery" option. Additionally, line 58 in column 11 specifically describes the visual image associated with the "perform surgery" to be a "digitized photograph."

Ramshaw also fails to disclose or suggest accessing a template from a stored media local to the user's workstation, and then connecting to an information network to access certain types of information not provided in the stored template, as recited in claim 1.

In the Office Action, the Examiner relies on Ceretta for its disclosure of website links provided on another website for enabling a user to sign up for and/or select from a variety of courses, seminars, or other educational resources. Even if the disclosure of Ramshaw were to be combined with the disclosure of Cerrata, however, the resulting combination would still be insufficient to render obvious the claimed invention.

The system disclosed in Ceretta is an internet-based vehicle for tapping into an external database of instructional materials through an online connection, and requires a user to log in before accessing the contents of the system. As such, Ceratta's system is not an "interactive template" "stored on a storage medium accessed and operated locally by the user at a work station" as claimed in the present application. Thus, Cerrata does not teach or suggest both a video demonstration and an animated demonstration of the surgical procedure locally accessible from a stored medium as recited in claim 1.

In Cerrata, a user is enabled to link from one website to another to browse through and/or register for courses or seminars. In the claimed invention, the template is stored on and accessed from a discrete medium at the user's local station, and selection of

the claimed link opens a communication channel to an information network to access the company website. The difference is that the claimed invention starts in a local, non-network environment, and actively establishes a connection to the information network when a particular link is selected by the user, whereas in Cerrata, all of the information accessed by the user comes through the information network from locations external to the user's station.

Since neither Ramshaw nor Cerrata, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests an interactive template including an animated demonstration and a video demonstration of a surgical technique, and further that the interactive template is "stored on a storage medium accessed and operated locally by the user at a work station and further includes a link which opens a channel to a communication network so as to access a website" as presently recited in claim 1. In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection over Ramshaw and Ceratta is respectfully requested.

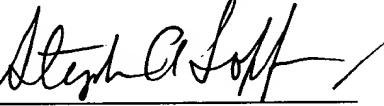
Claims 2 and 4-5 each ultimately depends from claim 1 and thereby incorporates all of the features recited in the latter. Claims 2 and 4-5 further recite additional features not taught or suggested in Ramshaw and/or Cerrata. As such, claims 2 and 4-5 are also patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art.

New claims 6-12 have been added to provide method claims directed to subject matter similar to that recited in claim 3, and as such, are also patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance, and respectfully request the Examiner to pass this application to issue.

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